this, Government propose to start a rural reconstruction centre in the State. The Rural Reconstruction Department of the Young Men's Christian Association have established such centres in other parts of India and from my own personal experience I am convinced that they have achieved remarkable results. I am in communication with the Association and I have requested them to lend us the services of one of their experienced men who might be put in charge of a similar centre in the State. The Cocoanut Farm at Vytila which has been working at a loss and which the Retrenchment Committee have recommended to be leased out may probably prove to be an excellent place for the starting of such a reconstruction centre. A lump sum provision of Rs. 6,000 has been made in the budget for this work and I am hoping that the Rural Reconstruction Centre would be started in the course of the next Malayalam year.

Town Planning.

22. The question of undertaking schemes of town planning on a comprehensive scale has been engaging the attention of Government for some time. It is natural that Government should devote its attention in this respect in the first instance to the Capital City itself. Honourable Members can already observe that considerable improvements have been made in certain parts of Ernakulam. The canals and the basins in the town have been in a very dilapidated condition and the work of repairing them has almost been completed. The improvements to the Padiath Canal and basin and the Market basin and its canal to the east of the Broadway Bridge are estimated to cost about to Rs. 33,000. Government have agreed to contribute Rs. 8,000 for these works and the balance is met entirely by the Municipality. To enable the Municipality to find the required amount for financing these works, Government have agreed to grant a loan of Rs. 25,000 at 4 per cent interest repayable in equated annual instalments in a period of 10 years. Government appreciate the readiness of the Ernakulam Municipal Council in undertaking such schemes of town improvement. The work of opening up a new road along the foreshore which will be the main entrance to the town has already been taken on hand. An estimate for Rs. 70,000 has been sanctioned for reconstructing this road and for a new bridge on the Market Canal. The cost of this work has not been debited to the revenue accounts. It is debited to a separate account under 'Advances Recoverable'. The opening up of this new road will make available for the purpose of building construction about 5

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acres of poramboke land which is now lying waste and of no use. In view of the great demand for building sites it is expected that we would be in a position to realise a very handsome amount by the sale of this poramboke land. It is proposed to recover the cost of the scheme from the proceeds of this sale. Enquiries are already being received about these sites and I expect that there would be very great demand for building sites on this new road. This road, when completed, will be a unique and picturesque foreshore. Running almost like a straight line along the shores of the backwater with no impediment to hide the panoramic view to the west, this foreshore will provide a picturesque and attractive setting for shops and commercial houses.

23. The works of constructing the foot-path round the maidan at Trichur and the conversion of the Maidan into parks and play-grounds are progressing satisfactorily. The cost of these works are being borne by the Municipality and the Devaswom Department. When these works are completed they will not merely make Trichur an attractive place but provide in the heart of the town a magnificent open space which will serve as a park. The investigation relating to a satisfactory water-supply to Trichur has also been completed. The scheme involves the damming of the Naduthodu River and diverting its water through protected pipes to a reservoir placed at a convenient point in the town. The plans and estimates have been forwarded to the Trichur Municipal Council for their observations, and they have been invited to send proposals for the financing of this scheme.

24. The work of supplying adequate fresh water to Mattancheri has also been undertaken. Government have sanctioned a scheme for carrying a 9 inch submerged pipe line across the backwater from Ernakulam to Mattancheri at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,50,000. Other schemes for the improvement of Mattancheri have been held up on account of the difficulty of financing these schemes. It is this holding up of certain schemes that has given rise to some criticism, both inside the Legislative Council and outside, that Government are not responsive to the needs of Mattancheri. This is a convenient place for me to say something about the policy which Government intend to pursue in the matter of improving the amenities of municipal towns. Government are fully alive to the need for improving the sanitary and other conditions in congested areas especially in towns like Ernakulam and Mattancheri situated in the vicinity of the Port. In spite of this realisation

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on the part of Government it is to be remembered that with the limited funds at their disposal Government have to satisfy the evergrowing demands of the rural population as well. While Government are prepared to help the Municipalities to some extent it should be clearly understood that the major part of the burden should be borne by the Municipal Councils themselves. It does not help to solve a problem when the Municipal Council sends back schemes with the observation that the Municipality has no resources to finance them. I must frankly say that, when compared with the District Municipalities in the Madras Presidency, the level of taxation in the Municipalities of this State is extraordinarily low. The Municipal Councils will have to face the problem boldly. The level of taxation in the Municipal areas will have to be raised to enable the Municipalities to find adequate funds for financing these schemes. It is because that certain Municipal Councils have not shown any tendency to face the problem in this manner that the schemes intended for the improvement of these towns are being held up.

25. I find that if the schemes of town improvement are to be effectively carried out with minimum cost for public and Municipal funds, legislation is necessary in this respect. Government have already appointed a Departmental Committee to draft the necessary legislation for town improvement. Powers will be taken for the creation of Town Improvement Trusts and for speedy acquisition of properties so that the schemes can be carried out with the maximum efficiency and minimum expenditure.

Recruitment to the Services.

26. It was during my last budget speech that I announced the appointment of the Staff Selection Board and the acceptance by Government of the principle of communal representation for recruitment in the public services. During the Legislative Council sitting on the 11th February 1936, a Resolution was adopted recommending to Government that a Public Service Commission or a Staff Selection Board with definite rules of communal rotation should be constituted in the State for recruitment to the public services in order to give adequate representation to all the communities in the State. Soon after this motion was passed a Departmental Committee was appointed for examining the question and the final orders of Government were passed at the time of the commencement of

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